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# Report of the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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# II. Replies received from Governments

## Brazil

[Original: English]
[11 September 1998]

The Brazilian Government endorses the conclusions presented by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms. The Brazilian Government congratulates the Chairman and the members of the Panel of Experts and the Secretariat for the excellent work they have done.

The Brazilian Government also wishes to support the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects. Such a conference should, however, be preceded by adequate preparation by a committee open to the participation of all interested countries and mandated to define, in detail, the goals, the agenda and the scope of the conference.

## Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[31 August 1998]

Bulgaria endorses the Report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (A/52/298) and finds the recommendations contained therein to be an appropriate basis for further consideration and action by the international community on the issue of small arms.

With regard to the specific recommendations as set out in paragraphs 79 and 80 of the report, Bulgaria would like to communicate the following:

*Paragraph 79 (a)*: Bulgaria supports the view that the United Nations should adopt a proportional and integrated approach to security and development which could be adapted to the specific situations in various countries and regions emerging from conflict. The approach should comprise measures for strengthening internal security, arms collection and destruction, the creation of social and economic opportunities including training and education of former combatants for their reintegration into civil society. The support of the donor community is essential for the success of this approach;

*Paragraph 79 (b)*: Activities related to disarmament and demobilization should be well planned and, if possible, included in peace agreements between parties to a conflict. All actors involved in the peace settlement should assume specific responsibilities for planning, organizing, implementing, financing and monitoring these activities;

*Paragraph 79 (d)*: The experience of past and present United Nations peacekeeping operations shows the importance of the timely disarming of former combatants and of placing the collected arms under strict governmental or international control in accordance with the peace agreement. The United Nations could play a substantive role in this by developing relevant guidelines, by including, where appropriate, disarmament and demobilization tasks and components in the mandates of its peacekeeping operations and by assisting in the establishment of logistic facilities;

*Paragraph 79 (e)*: Bulgarian customs and other relevant authorities are closely cooperating multilaterally and bilaterally with their respective counterparts in combating illicit trafficking in small arms. Customs cooperation and assistance agreements were signed with the European Union (Protocol 6 to the Europe Agreement between Bulgaria and the European Union (EU)), Turkey, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the near future, similar agreements will be signed with Greece and Romania, and agreements with Argentina, Croatia, Georgia, Armenia, Hungary, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are being prepared. Cooperation among financial authorities and institutions could also contribute to the efforts against the illicit arms trade;

*Paragraph 79 (f)*: The intelligence information system of the World Customs Organization, which has a regional office for Eastern Europe in Warsaw, is being used for the exchange of information on illicit trafficking and other related data. In the framework of the South-eastern European Cooperative Initiative, a regional information centre for the purposes of combating organized crime will be established in Bucharest;

*Paragraph 80 (b)*: The Law on the Control of Explosive Substances, Arms and Ammunitions and the Regulation on its enforcement determine the types of arms which are permitted for possession by physical and legal persons in Bulgaria. The law is being reviewed at present, and a new draft law is under preparation which will enhance the effectiveness of the control;

*Paragraph 80 (c)*: Bulgaria has introduced an effective arms export control regime which is in line with the internationally harmonized guidelines and norms in this area. Arms export control is subject to the Law on the Control of Foreign Trade Activity with Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and the Regulation on the Enforcement of the Law. Some amendments to the Law and the Regulation will

be introduced in the near future. Under the Law, all companies which trade in arms have to be licensed by a governmental body, the Interdepartmental Council. Permits for each individual foreign trade transaction with arms or dual-use goods and technologies are issued by a special commission at the Ministry of Trade and Tourism. Transiting arms through the territory of Bulgaria is also subject to licensing;

*Paragraph 80 (f)*: A reliable and effective system for safeguarding stocks of small arms and light weapons and ammunition from loss or theft is in place in all storage areas of the defence industry as well as armed and security forces;

*Paragraph 80 (h)*: Bulgaria strictly observes all restrictions on arms transfers imposed by the Security Council, as well as those stemming from our membership in the Waasenaar Arrangement and other international regimes and conventions. Bulgaria has aligned itself to the criteria and principles contained in the European Union code of conduct on arms exports, as well as to the European Union programme for preventing and combating the illicit trafficking in conventional arms;

*Paragraph 80 (k)*: Bulgaria supports, in principle, the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects, based on the issues identified in the report of the Panel of Governmental Experts. The final decision on this recommendation should be taken after an agreement is reached on the goals, the scope and the agenda of the conference;

*Paragraph 80 (l, m)*: Bulgaria is in favour of conducting the three studies proposed in the report. There is a reliable system for marking all small arms and light weapons and their main components from the time of production which allows their movement within the territory of the country to be traced.

## Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[18 August 1998]

Mexico believes that the issue of small arms and illicit trafficking in such arms should be given a prominent place in the context of the process of general and complete disarmament, while bearing in mind that in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in 1978, the international community gives priority to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mexico supports the recommendations set out in the 1997 report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, both with regard to measures to reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons and with regard to measures to prevent such accumulations and transfers from occurring in future.

Mexico supports the initiation of a study on the problems of ammunition and explosives in all their aspects, as referred to in resolution 52/38 J. The Government of Mexico also supports the recommendation concerning the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects.

Mexico supports the Secretary-General's efforts through its participation in the new group of governmental experts entrusted with preparing a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the report on small arms and on further actions recommended to be taken at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. In that regard, the Inter-American Convention against the Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, signed in November 1997, could be extremely useful in connection with the future work of the United Nations in the field in question.